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# The second report of the Seychelles Bird Records Committee

*Adrian Skerrett and the Seychelles Bird Records Committee*

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Le Comité d'Homologation des Seychelles, créé en 1992, a publié son premier rapport en 1996. Son deuxième rapport, présenté ici, comprend les observations acceptées au 31 décembre 2000. Il met l'accent sur les espèces occasionnelles (espèces non vues annuellement). Les changements intervenus depuis 1996 dans le statut des autres espèces sont mentionnés. Deux espèces nicheuses ont été ajoutées à la liste seychelloise, et une modification taxonomique proposée en ajouterait, en cas d'acceptation, une troisième. Une espèce, précédemment considérée comme annuelle, a été reclassée comme occasionnelle.

Avec ces changements, le nombre des espèces nicheuses aux Seychelles est passé de 63 (total au 31 décembre 1995) à 66, tandis que les migrateurs annuels sont passés de 25 à 24, le nombre des espèces éteintes (sept) demeurant inchangé. Le nombre des espèces occasionnelles a augmenté de 22 et compte actuellement 127 espèces. Le nombre total des espèces pour les Seychelles au 31 décembre 2000 est donc de 224. Sont inclus dans ce nombre, trois espèces d'origine inconnue qui ont peut être atteint l'archipel par bateau ou fait l'objet d'une introduction délibérée. Toute espèce non annuelle est listée, avec le nombre de mentions homologuées, les mois au cours desquels l'espèce a été observée, les localités (par île) et le nombre d'individus. Un astérisque à côté du nom indique les espèces ajoutées depuis la publication du premier rapport; pour celles-ci, des détails supplémentaires sont fournis.

The Seychelles Bird Records Committee (SBRC) was formed in 1992 and published its first report in 1996. The current committee members are Michael Betts, Ian Bullock, David Fisher, Ron Gerlach, Rob Lucking, John Phillips, Bob Scott and Adrian Skerrett, with consultants Phil Chantler (swifts), James Ferguson-Lees (raptors), John Marchant (waders), Tony Palliser (seabirds) and Robert Prys-Jones (museums).

A summary of notable sightings received by SBRC is published every six months in the Recent Reports section of *Bull. ABC* while accepted records are listed in *Birdwatch* magazine (the quarterly journal of the Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles). A Decision was taken at an annual meeting of the SBRC to publish full reports every 4-5 years in a leading international journal. This second report includes all records accepted up to 31 December 2000.

The first report of SBRC included every species recorded in Seychelles (with the exception of extinctions), with the aim of publishing the first status report and authoritative checklist of the birds of Seychelles. There was, however, still a significant number of historical records that had not been assessed. This second report therefore constitutes a complete record of the vagrants, defined as species recorded less than annually, recorded in Seychelles up to November 2000.

The status of species other than vagrants has changed since 31 December 1995 as follows:

1. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* was listed as a vagrant with just four accepted records up to December 1995<sup>1</sup>. Remarkably, it has now colonised Seychelles by natural means with indications of breeding on Mahé (since 1996), Silhouette (since 1997) and confirmed breeding on Cousin (since 2000).
2. No reports of Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* were submitted to SBRC at 31 December 1995, although there have been sightings of unidentified green parakeets on Mahé, almost certainly this species, dating back to 1974. Subsequent sightings have been confirmed as this species and the first indication of probable breeding was on Mahé in 1997. The species has also been noted on Silhouette.
3. Sinclair and Langrand (1998) first suggested taxonomic changes to several species breeding in Seychelles<sup>1</sup>. These included Souimanga Sunbird *Nectarinia soimanga*, which was formerly represented in the archipelago by three races: *aldabrensis* on Aldabra, *abbotti* on Assumption and *buchenorum* on Cosmoledo and Astove. The latter two taxa may be a distinct species, Abbott's Sunbird *N. abbotti*, of which the race on Assumption would be the nominate. DNA studies are currently underway.
4. Other taxonomic changes proposed by Sinclair and Langrand (1998) do not change the number



Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*, Aride Island, Seychelles, December 1996 (Adrian Skerrett)



Eastern Red-footed Falcon *Falco amurensis*, Frégate, December 1995 (Rob Lucking)



Heuglin's Gull *Larus (argentatus) heuglini*, Mahé, February 1992 (Adrian Skerrett)

of breeding species. However, three taxa may be upgraded from endemic races to full species (Aldabra Rail *Dryolimnas (cuvieri) aldabranus*, Seychelles Black Parrot *Coracopsis (nigra) barklyi*, and Aldabra Fody *Foudia (eminentissima) aldabrana*). The status of another might be changed from a race of Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* to a race of Madagascar Sacred Ibis *T. bernieri* also sometimes, itself, considered a race of *T. aethiopicus*.

5. Seychelles Magpie-Robin *Copsychus sebellarum* is resident on four islands at 30 September 2000 (Frégate, Cousin, Cousine and Aride), compared to two islands at 31 December 1995, due to a BirdLife reintroduction programme. It breeds on the first three islands listed.
6. Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* was originally listed as an annual migrant. However, following the increased recognition of Heuglin's Gull *Larus (argentatus) heuglini* and the close scrutiny of Seychelles records it became clear that

while both these species had occurred in Seychelles, the vast majority of sightings could not be assigned to one species or the other. SBRC has reclassified Lesser Black-backed Gull as a vagrant.

Including Black-crowned Night Heron and Ring-necked Parakeet, and if Abbott's Sunbird is confirmed as a valid species (DNA studies are underway for several taxa in Seychelles), then the number of breeding species in Seychelles is increased from 63 listed at 31 December 1995 to 66. The number of annual migrants is reduced by the deletion of Lesser Black-backed Gull from 25 to 24. The number of extinctions has remained unchanged at seven and, hopefully, will stay that way. The number of vagrants has increased to 127, with 22 species added to the list since 31 December 1995.

The number of species recorded in Seychelles (again including Abbott's Sunbird), as at 30 September 2000 is 224. This figure includes three species accepted with the caveat 'origin unknown' implying

possible ship-assisted passage and/or deliberate introduction (Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Ring-necked Parakeet and Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*).

The following list details all species of less than annual occurrence giving the number of accepted records, the months recorded, the locations (by island) and in brackets the number of individuals recorded. An asterisk appears by the common name of each species recorded since publication of the first report and, for these species, more details are given.

**Southern Giant Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus*  
One record: July–October Mahé (1).

**Pintado Petrel** *Daption capense*  
One record: September. Between Cosmoledo and Assumption (1).

**Jouanin's Petrel** *Bulweria fallax*  
Twelve records: February, March, April, June, July, November, December. Eight at sea between the Aldabra, Farquhar and Amirantes groups, four near Bird (18).

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes*  
Two records: May, October. One between Frégate and Récif, one near Farquhar (2).

**Wilson's Storm-petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*  
Three records: October, November. One near Bird, one near Desnoueufs, one near Farquhar (7).

\***White-faced Storm-petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*  
A bird ten miles off Boudeuse, on 9 May 1995, one eight miles off Desroches, on 10 May 1995, and five individuals, five miles off Remire, on 12 May 1995.

\***Swinhoe's Storm-petrel** *Oceanodroma monorhis*  
One found dead at Cote d'Or, Praslin, in October 1996. One at sea between Aldabra and Assumption, 12 October 1996 and one in the same location, 6 December 1998.

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*  
Two records: December. One South-east Island/Mahé, one Platte (2).

**Red-billed Tropicbird** *Phaethon aethereus*  
Two records: all months. January–December. One Bird, one Aride (2).

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*  
One record: January. One near Cousin (1).

\***Long-tailed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*  
A series of sightings at various locations at Aldabra, in 1999, commenced with individuals from 26 January, to 31 March, four on 1 April, 21 on 21 April, ten on 29 April, four on 29 June, two on 3 August then singles up to 25 November. Also one at Hodoul Island, Mahé, 28 July to 22 October 1999.

**Eurasian Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*  
Two records: October, November. One Aride, one Praslin (2).

**Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
One record: October. Frégate (1).

**Indian Pond-Heron** *Ardeola grayii*  
Three records: May to November. One Mahé, one Bird, one Frégate (3).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*  
Sixteen records: all months. 13 Mahé, one La Digue, one Frégate, one Silhouette (31).

\***Yellow-billed Egret** *Egretta intermedia*  
One at Plantation Club Marsh, Mahé, from 22 March to 7 April 1996 (1).

**Great Egret** *Egretta alba*  
Seven records: all months. Three Mahé, three Aldabra, one Praslin (7).

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*  
Twenty-two records: April, May, July–February. Seven Mahé, three La Digue, three Bird, three Silhouette, two Frégate, one Praslin, one Curieuse, one Aride, one Platte (23).

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*  
Four records: December–February. Two Mahé, one Bird, one D'Arros (8).

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*  
One record of nominate race: February. Aldabra (1).

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*  
Four records: April, June, September. Three Aldabra, one Assumption (6).

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*  
One record: December. Mahé (1).

\***Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*  
One adult female at Dauban Marsh, Silhouette, 12 December 1998 to 16 January 1999. Accepted with caveat 'origin unknown'.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*  
Four records: February, November, December. Two Mahé, one Aride, one Cousin (10).

**Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*  
Five records: October–March. Two Mahé, one Frégate, one Bird, one Assumption (6).

\***Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*  
One adult male at Police Bay Marsh, Mahé, 26 May 1998.

\***Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*  
One at Fond L'Anse, Praslin, on 12 September 1996.

**Western Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus*  
Three records: March–May, September, October. One Praslin, one Félicité, one D'Arros. One accepted with caveat that Crested Honey Buzzard *P. ptilorhynchus* could not be eliminated (3).

\***Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*  
One at La Passe, Silhouette, 24 December 1997 and one at Cousin, 25 December 1997, possibly the same bird.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus (migrans) aegyptius*  
Six records: January, February, August, September, October–December. Aldabra (8).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two records: January, February. Frégate, Mahé (2).

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

One record: November. Mahé (1).

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*

Two records: April–May, December. Praslin, Bird (2).

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

Three records: November, December. Two Aride, one Bird (3).

**\*Eastern Red-footed Falcon** *Falco amurensis*

One first-winter and one adult female at the airstrip, Desroches, on 1–3 March 1995. One first-winter at Cousine, 2 December 1995 to early February 1996. One first-winter at the Plantation House garden, Frégate, 6 December 1995 to 5 January 1996. One first-winter found alive but exhausted at Victoria, Mahé, 27 November 1998, died the following day.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Seven records: November–January. Two Mahé, two Cousin, two Aride, one Cousine (7).

**Eleonora's Falcon** *Falco eleonora*

Thirteen records: November–February. Seven Aldabra, four Aride, one Cousin, one Frégate (14).

**Sooty Falcon** *Falco concolor*

Four records: November. Two Aride, one Frégate, one Aldabra (4).

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

One record: November. Cousin (1).

**\*Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

One at Bel Air, Mahé, 20 May 1998 and one on Aride, from 25 December 1998 to 17 January 1999. Previous reports of this species had been assumed to be escaped Japanese Quail *C. japonica*, kept in captivity in Seychelles, but measurements of both these individuals proved otherwise.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

Three records: October, November, January. One Bird, one Aride, one Frégate (3).

**\*Spotted Crane** *Porzana porzana*

One adult at Roche Caiman Bird Sanctuary, from 8 December 1996 to 6 February 1997.

**\*Striped Crane** *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis*

One collected on Picard, Aldabra, 10 December 1904, and preserved at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, had been pending by SBRC until the specimen could be inspected. This record appears in previously published literature as a male<sup>1</sup>. The inspection confirmed the species identification, although the skin is a female.

**White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

One record: December. Mahé (1).

**\*Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni*

One adult at Basin Flamant, Aldabra, 15 February 1995. One immature at Plantation Club Marsh, Mahé, 4–9 July

1996. One adult at the Research Station, Picard, Aldabra, on 10 January 1999. One adult at La Passe, La Digue, on 10 March 1999.

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Five records: all months. Four Mahé, one Aldabra (7).

**Common Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Two records: September, October. One Mahé, one Praslin (2).

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

Four records: January, October, November. Two Praslin, one Mahé, one Frégate (4).

**Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*

Six records: October–December. Four Mahé, one Praslin, one La Digue (8).

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni*

Four records: One Mahé, one Frégate, one Bird, one Alphonse (4).

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Eight records: September–November, January. Four Mahé, two Bird, one Frégate, one Cousin (10).

**Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*

Thirteen records: August–April, June. Four Praslin, four Bird, two Mahé, two Frégate and one Farquhar (18).

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*

Three records: October, November. Two Praslin, one Frégate (3).

**Great Knot** *Calidris tenuirostris*

Two records: March, April. Mahé (2).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

Five records: September, October, December. Three Mahé, one Praslin, one Bird (6).

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

One record: November. Mahé (1).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Two records: October. One Praslin, one Bird (2).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata*

Three records: September–February, July. Mahé (3).

**\*Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*

One at Anse Madge, Praslin, from 15 to 16 October 1985. One first-winter at Baie St Anne, Praslin, on 3 October 1996. One first-winter at Oceangate mudflats, Mahé, from 10 to 29 October 1996. One adult at Baie St Anne, Praslin, on 19 October 1997.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** *Tryngites subruficollis*

Three records: March, October, November. Two Bird, two Platte (3).

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

Eighteen records: August–November. Eight Mahé, three Frégate, three Bird, two Praslin, two Cousin (19).

**Pintail Snipe** *Gallinago stenura*

Three records: March, April, November. Two Mahé, one Aldabra. One accepted with the caveat that Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala* could not be eliminated.

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media*

Two records: October–December. One Praslin, one Frégate (2).

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Three records: October, November. Two Bird, one Alphonse (3).

**Little Curlew** *Numenius minutus*

One record: October–April. One Bird (1).

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

One record: February. One Mahé (1).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

Seven records: January, May, October, November. Six Mahé, one Cerf (9).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ocbropus*

Seven records: October, November, January. Three Mahé, two Praslin, one Frégate, one Silhouette (7).

**Grey-tailed Tattler** *Heteroscelus brevipes*

Two records: all months. One Mahé, one Bird (2).

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two records: November. One Mahé, one Denis (2).

**\*South Polar Skua** *Catbaracta maccormicki*

One immature intermediate morph, at sea between Booby Island and Aride, from 9 to 25 July 1998. One immature intermediate morph off the south side of Aride, from 18 to 28 July 1999.

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Two records: January, February. One Bird, one Frégate (2).

**Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Twelve records: December–February. Seven Mahé, four Praslin, one between Praslin and Cousin (22).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

Two records: October, December. One Aride, one Bird (2).

**\*Heuglin's Gull** *Larus (argentatus) heuglini*

Two first-winters at Providence, Mahé, from 4 to 5 February 1992.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

Four records: October, March, April. Two Mahé, one Praslin, one La Digue (4).

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Four records: October, December, March. Three Mahé, one Cousin (4).

**\*Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

Three in adult breeding plumage (and probably a total of 15, including some in non-breeding plumage, which could not be separated from Saunders' Tern *S. saundersi*) at Oceangate mudflats, Mahé, from 23 to 24 April 1997.

**European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

Three records: November, December. One Aride, one Bird, one Aldabra (3).

**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Oxylophus jacobinus*

Five records: November–January, March. Two Frégate, one Praslin, one Bird, one Aride (5).

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*

One record: October. One Bird (1).

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Ten records: April, May, September, November, December. Eight Mahé, one Aride, one Cousine. Two accepted with slight caveat regarding other possible *Cuculus* species (10).

**Asian Lesser Cuckoo** *Cuculus poliocephalus*

Four records: April, November, December. Two Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousine (4).

**\*Eurasian Scops Owl** *Otus scops*

One between Au Salon and Grand Anse, Frégate, 1 November 1992, accepted with the caveat that other scops owl species were not eliminated. One immature on the plateau, Aride, on 8–11 December 1996. A ship-assisted bird on a tuna-fishing vessel, which it boarded at 5°N, on 8 October 1998, arriving Mahé on 18 November 1998, where it died 23 November 1998. One found dead on Aride, on 2 November 1998.

**Brown Fish Owl** *Ketupa zeylonensis*

One record: November. Mahé. Accepted with caveat 'origin unknown' (1).

**European Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

One record: December. Bird (1).

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*

Two records: October, November. One Mahé, one Bird (3).

**European Swift** *Apus apus*

Fifteen records: February, March, May, September–December. Five Bird, three Frégate, three Aldabra, three Assumption, one St Francois. Ten records accepted with a caveat concerning other possible all-dark swifts (16).

**Pacific Swift** *Apus pacificus*

Twelve records: January, May, October, November. Eight Bird, two Frégate, one Farquhar, one St Francois (16).

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

Two records: November, December. One Mahé, one Aride (2).

**Blue-checked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*

Fourteen records: March–May, November, December. Four Bird, three Aldabra, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousin, one Denis, one Desnoeuvs, one Marie Louise, one Platte (31).

**\*European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

One adult on East North Island, Cosmoledo Atoll, on 25 November 1998.

**European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*

Twenty-four records: October–March. Seven Mahé, six Aldabra, five Praslin, three Bird, two Aride, one African Banks (28).

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Thirty-six records: February, March, October–December. Twenty-seven Aldabra, three Cosmoledo, three Bird, one Frégate, one Providence (44).

**\*Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

One adult of the race *africana* near the Settlement, Picard, Aldabra, on 20–22 October 1993. One adult of the race *epops* or *senegalensis* at the Research Station, Picard, Aldabra, 14 October 1999.

**Greater Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella brachydactyla*

One record: November–December. Frégate (1).

**Mascarene Martin** *Phedina borbonica*

Five records: May, October, November. Two Aldabra, one Bird, one Desnoeufs, one Assumption (5).

**Common Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Fifteen records: January, March, May, June, October–December. Five Frégate, three Mahé, three Bird, two Aride, two Aldabra (17).

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Fifty-two records: September–May. Twenty-six Aldabra, eight Frégate, five Aride, four Bird, four Mahé, one Praslin, one at sea between Praslin and Cousin, one Denis, one Alphonse, one Assumption. Thirty-one records accepted with the caveat that other similar species were not eliminated by the description (119).

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Four records: March, October. Two Aldabra, one Farquhar, one Bird (5).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

Fifteen records: February–May, October–December. Six Aldabra, four Mahé, three Bird, one Frégate, one Alphonse (15).

**\*Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola*

One adult female at the Plantation House garden, Frégate, on 16 April 1999.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four records: October, November. One Bird, one Frégate, one Silhouette, one Marie Louise (6).

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

Twelve records: November–March. Five Mahé, two Frégate, two Aldabra, two Aride, one Bird (14).

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Forty-seven records: October–January. March. Thirteen Frégate, 13 Aldabra, six Bird, four Mahé, four Aride, two La Digue, one Cousin, one African Banks, one Etoile, one Alphonse, one Assumption (65).

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

Twelve records: October–December, January–March. Six Frégate, two Praslin, two Bird, one Mahé, one Alphonse (22).

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Four records: October–November. Two Aride, one Cousin, one Bird (4).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

One record: November. One Bird (1).

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Thirty-three records: October, December–March. Twenty-four Aldabra, five Bird, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Bird, one Aride (36).

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina*

One record: November. One Aride (1).

**Mountain Rock Thrush** *Monticola saxatilis*

Two records: October. One Frégate, one Farquhar (1).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One record: November. One Cousin (1).

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

One record: November. One Aride (1).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Three records: November, February, March. One La Digue, one Frégate, one Aldabra (3).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two records: November, December. One Cousin, one Aldabra (2).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

One record: December. one Curieuse (1).

**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

One record: October. one Aldabra (1).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Twenty-eight records: October–December, March. Twenty Aldabra, four Bird, two Aride, one Cousin, one D'Arros (38).

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

Ten records: September–November, March, April. Seven Aldabra, two Bird, one Aride (10).

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Six records: March. Five Aldabra, one Cosmoledo (7).

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*

One record: March. One Aldabra (1).

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

One record: April. One Aride (1).

**\*Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

One female or immature near the Lodge, Bird, from 13 July 1995 to 23 February 1996. Two at Bassin Cabris, Picard, Aldabra, from 29 September to 2 November 1998. A series of sightings of non-breeding adults or immatures, also at Bassin Cabris, commenced with 14 on 2 September 1999 with smaller numbers up to 24 June 2000, the last sighting, when five were present.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Sturnus roseus*

Three records: October–February. Two Frégate, one Bird (3).

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*  
One record: November. One Aride (1).

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*  
One record: October. One Aride (1).

In addition to the records of species of less than annual occurrence in Seychelles, SBRC collects records of out-of-range species within Seychelles. In this category, the following records have been accepted:

**Madagascar Pond-Heron** *Ardeola idae*  
Breeds Aldabra, vagrant east of Aldabra. One record: November–March. Aride.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*  
Breeds Aldabra, vagrant east of Aldabra. Three records: January–May, October, December. One Mahé, one Frégate, one Farquhar.

**Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*  
Breeds Aldabra and annual throughout Aldabra group, vagrant eastward. One record: November. At sea between Aride and Bird.

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana*  
Breeds Amirantes westward, vagrant eastward. Three records: January, June, October. One Bird, one Aride, one Cousin.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*  
Breeds Amirantes from Remire south to St Francois. Vagrant elsewhere. One record: August. One Aride.

A final category has been created to collect records that cannot be assigned to species, but which nevertheless are of interest. It is possible that with increasing knowledge some of these may be reassessed. For example, at the time, the first report of a scops owl *Otus* sp. was noted. Following the confirmation of records of Eurasian Scops Owl, by far the most likely *Otus* to reach Seychelles, this record was reassessed and accepted as probably a Eurasian Scops Owl, with a caveat regarding other possible species not eliminated by the description. The following records were submitted up to 30 September 2000.

**Squacco Heron sp.** *Ardeola* sp.  
Five records. Two Bird, one Mahé, one Frégate, one Cousin.

**Montagu's/Pallid Harrier** *Circus pygargus/macrourus*  
One adult female. One Aldabra.

**Gallinule sp.** *Porphyrio/Porphyryla* sp.  
One record. One Aldabra.

**Pratincole sp** *Pratincola* sp.  
Nine records. Four Bird, three Praslin, one Mahé, one Frégate.

**Common/Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola/maldivarum*  
Two records. Both Praslin.

**Black-winged/Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni/maldivarum*  
One record. One Bird.

**Red/Great Knot** *Calidris canutus/tenuirostris*  
Two records. Both Mahé.

**Snipe sp.** *Gallinago* sp.  
Seven records. Two Bird, two Frégate, one Mahé, one Praslin, one Aride.

**Caspian/Oriental Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus/veredus*  
One record. One Bird.

**Pomarine/Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus/parasiticus*  
One record. One Aride.

**Brown-/Black-/Grey-headed Gull** *Larus brunnecephalus/ridibundus/cirrecephalus*  
Five records. One Aldabra, one Mahé, one Praslin, one Frégate, one Desroches

**Oriental/European Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia orientalis/turtur*  
One record. One Frégate.

**Cuckoo sp.** *Cuculus* sp.  
Twenty-three records. Six Mahé, five Frégate, four Cousin, three Aldabra, two La Digue, one Silhouette, one Félicité, one Bird.

**Kingfisher sp** *Alcedo* sp.  
One record: Frégate. Probably Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* although other similar species could not be eliminated.

**Blue-cheeked/Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops persicus/superciliosus*  
Two records. One Mahé, one Cosmoledo.

**Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus trochilus/collybita*  
Two records. One Aldabra, one Astove.

All visitors to Seychelles and residents are encouraged to send in sightings of any species listed here, or any new species not listed. Record forms are available from Adrian Skerrett, PO Box 336, Seychelles, or Hazeley Brook, Keele Road, Keele, Staffs, ST5 5AL, UK, e-mail: askerrett@hotmail.com. ?

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